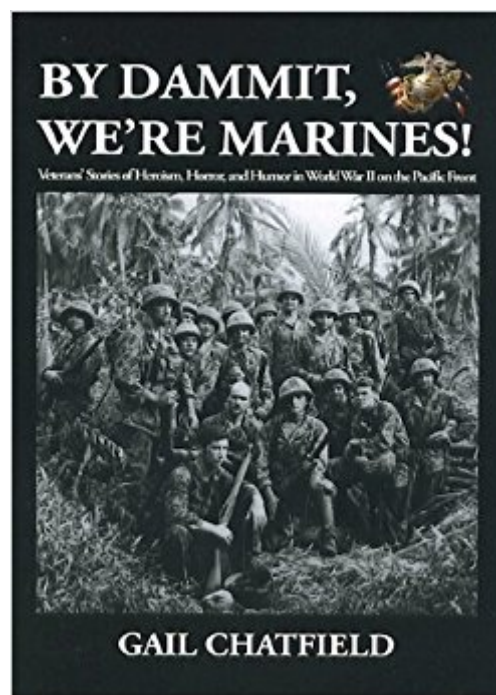




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# By Dammit, We're Marines! Veterans' Stories Of Heroism, Horror, And Humor In World War II On The Pacific Front



## Synopsis

Culled from interviews with 52 veterans, *By Dammit, We're Marines!* offers an 'under the helmet' view of combat on the Pacific Front during World War II. Facing an embedded, well-equipped enemy, flesh shredding coral reefs, malarial and dengue fever-ridden jungles, mosquito and crocodile-infested swamps and a noxious moonscape sulfur island, these invincible American teenagers destroyed the powerful Japanese war machine.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The author has brought together combat veterans and their stories so that the reader can readily identify and relate to the sacrifices made in the later stages of world war two in the Pacific. The men telling their stories certainly deserve nothing less than the gratitude and respect of this nation. This book should be required reading by every single senior in our high schools. Kudos to the author for a great job. S/F

This is a collection of stories of Marines who fought during WWII in the Pacific and it particularly

focuses on those who went on to fight on Iwo Jima. It tells their stories from the time of enlistment to their present situation and helps bring their battles, along with the hardships and losses, into perspective and give them a human quality, telling us why they fought the way they fought. WWII Marines, along with others who fought in the Pacific, were engaged in a brutal war of death with a fanatical enemy who considered themselves superior to any other people. It was a war of racism, where the Japanese were the master race against the subhuman people, not only of the West but also those orientals who would not succumb to their demands. Against this fanatical foe, these Marines, soldiers, sailors and airmen had to fight equally as fanatically in order to survive. There are those revisionist historians who now claim that the United States was at fault because we really started the war for capitalist gain and those American servicemen who were captured and tortured got "just what they deserved". As a Marine who fought in Vietnam, I find these remarks stupid and idiotic, coming from those who have never sacrificed for anything in their lives and sit in their armchairs or at their desks in universities and judge what real men had to do to protect them so they can sit there and say stupid things. These people disgust me but they do have a right to their opinions - just so long as they say them where no one can hear them. If you want to read about men in battle who are relaying information about a war that changed the course of human history, then this book should be a "must" read.

The interviewer's questions are removed, all you read is first hand memory stories from apparently old Iwo Jima vets. A great way to get to the meat of the experience, at the Marines' costliest and gruesomest 4 week battle. I think the author is the daughter of a 4th division Iwo vet. She wisely allowed the Old men to tell their own stories their own way. A brilliant way to get the human side of tough old Marines. My dad was an Iwo vet in the 5th Pioneers. He said very little about it, and was haunted. Thanks Gail for making this book.

Fast easy reading, covers full spectrum of the events without lingering on the gore or the profanity. Read the whole thing on a coast-to-coast flight and couldn't hardly wait for a friend to read it.

Some 70 years after the events written about here we can read these stories and understand some things that were not understood or known at the time they happened. War is brutal and many lives were lost unnecessarily. Arguably, capture of Iwo might have been necessary as an emergency airfield. But many thousands of lives were lost in capturing islands that could have been bypassed and scooped up with no loss of life at the war's end.

My next door neighbor's father was sitting at the base of Mt. Suribachi when the flag was raised, he talked about the cheering and all the ships blowing their whistles and that he came through the battle without a scratch. Tony refused to say anything more, now after reading these first hand accounts of the battle, I can understand his refusal to share such horror.

To me, this book does not start out with "the hook" that aspiring writers of lyrics and literature are encouraged to develop early in the first few pages...a survival tactic for publication. Instead, the author chose the gutsy method (perhaps allowable, considering the genre) of letting the collected parts construct the whole meaningful experience, giving these aging warriors a "last hurrah" of flinging the "verses of their hearts" in the stories of an incredible part of their lives, so that we who come after may not forget their gift to us all, their valor, their honor, and their innocence. They are a source of hope that this kind of courage will not fade from the Glory of America. I came upon the book at the recommendation of an elder author friend who froze in the foxholes of Europe as a young GI and whose heart is so full of love, humor, and benign outlook, who also knows the author, Gail. I'm so glad that I read the stories of these soon to be passing men of my father's generation. I have purchased another volume as a gift for my retired Marine General neighbor, so to honor his life's service.

No holds barred description of young Marines and support troops in the Pacific Theatre... to me....the most interesting part was how these men even managed to ever get on with their lives after what they had been through. I believe that reading these stories gives a person some insight into how the seeds of hatred are sown,,,,,

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